SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

2440 Main Street Red Bluff, Ca. 96080



Web-Page www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.

SRCA NOTES

February, 2002

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Board Members:

Chair, Ben Carter, Colusa County

Don Anderson, Glenn County, Sec/Treas.

Jane Dolan, Butte County, Vice Chairman

Bill Borror, Tehama County

Denny Bungarz, Glenn County

Mel Dodgin, The Resources Agency

Marc Faye, Yolo County

Brendon Flynn, Tehama County

Dan Gover, Shasta County

Glenn Hawes, Shasta County

Shirley Lewis, Butte County

Lynnel Pollock, Yolo County

Dan Silva, Sutter County

Doug White, Colusa County

Russell Young, Sutter County

Ex-Officio Members:

Laura Allen, Bureau of Reclamation

Marie Sullivan, US F&WS

Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers

Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish & Game

Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board

Dwight Russell, Department of Water Resources

Burt Bundy, Manager (530) 528-7411 bundy@water.ca.gov

- ❖ Project Activities and Updates- Hamilton City -Erosion at the head end of the "J" levee has migrated to the base of the levee and is very close to threatening its integrity. Glenn County Public Works, DWR and the Corps of Engineers have been monitoring the situation and working closely together to prepare to rapidly mount a flood fight when PL 84-99 emergency criteria are met. Materials, access, contracts, and equipment are being prepared to either fill behind the "J" levee or build a backup levee. The HCCSD and local, state, and federal agencies are also continuing to move forward with long term plans through a dual Sec. 205 Flood Control Study and an Initial Project of the Comprehensive Study.
- ❖ From The Nature Conservancy Ayres Associates has completed a final report for hydraulic modeling in the Hamilton City area. Initial results were presented to a number of local stakeholders and landowners, familiar with the area, in order to ensure an accurate reflection of conditions on the ground. This careful review and feedback improved the accuracy of the modeling effort, which examines changes in flood conditions as a result of changes in land use on conservation parcels. The next report will include analysis of the locally preferred set-back levee alignment.

Future TAC/SRCA Board and Committee meetings:

There will be a special TAC meeting on **February 14th**, 9:00 a.m., Mendocino National Forest office, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows to address issues involved with a boundary change or new definition of the outer area.

The regular TAC meeting will be on **February 21**st, 9:00 a.m., Willows City hall, Willows.

The next SRCA Board meeting will be on **February 28th**, 3:00 p.m., Maxwell Inn, 81 Oak Street, Maxwell

The Landowner Assurances Committee meeting will be on **February 21**st, 2:00 p.m., Colusa Fairgrounds, Colusa.

Discussion Items:

❖ Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters - Jim Nielsen, former state senator and author of SB1086, gave a brief overview of the reasons behind the creation of the bill. Mr. Nielsen commended those who had been involved with the Program over the last 17 years. He noted this provides a valuable forum for landowners as well as state and federal agencies.

County Board Resolutions

Tedd Mehr, serving as Attorney for Petitioner Tom Gross and as the voice for the signatories, presented petitions to the SRCA staff. The petitions were to all involved agencies and the SRCA Board of Directors to be considered in the decision making process. According to Mr. Mehr, the petitioners' main focus is a request of the Board to support bringing the Conservation Area back to its original size of approximately 30,000 acres, to not consider land outside that area, and to take references to setback levees out of the Handbook. Discussion followed with each Board member given the opportunity to comment on these issues. A public comment period followed; more time will be needed and will be on the February Board agenda. Following discussion the Chairman recognized that there is a real need for better communication and clarification on the intent of the program. It was also noted there is a process in place to affect change and a need to work within that process. The Board directed the TAC to catalogue the impacts of removing the outer boundary. It was also suggested that discussion continue at the TAC on further defining the Outer River Area, and its uses, to develop a statement that protects agricultural use of that land.

- ❖ Manager's Report –Due to time constraints written copies of the report were made available.
- **❖ Board Committee Reports** –Due to time constraints written copies of the reports were made available.
- ❖ Agency Reports Stein Buer, DWR/Department of Flood Management, informed the group he would be happy to provide information and/or answer questions about the potential flood fight at Hamilton City. Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, made available copes of response letters to Senator Johannessen concerning questions about ecosystem restoration, and the possible extenuating flood control problems, and to Sacramento River Partners regarding the encroachment permitting process for State restoration projects.

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Public Use/Recreation Study Consultant Selected—EDAW, a Recreation Research group with offices in Sacramento has been selected by a joint committee of SRCA and TNC members to identify and project existing and future recreation needs along the Sacramento River. The study will focus on the area between Red Bluff and Colusa, but will also inventory public use facilities from Keswick to Verona. The SRCA will facilitate public input into the study and coordinate the development of informational tools.

Technical Advisory Committee – January 17, 2002

Chair~ Anjanette Martin

Vice Chair~ Stacy Cepello

Discussion Items:

- ❖ Activities Updates Kelly Maroney, USFWF Refuge, announced the final draft should be out within a month on the restoration Environmental Assessment. Sacramento River Partners will be holding a series of meetings dealing with public use and access on the Pamma Property. TNC will hold a meeting at the Chico City Council Chambers on January 30th, 9:00 a.m. to discuss landowner impacts. Stacy Cepello, DWR, announced a memorandum will be out at a later date on bank inventories, natural versus rock. They have also been looking at movement of debris in the river and will bring information on both issues to the TAC.
- ❖ The IRZ and Outer Boundary of the Conservation Area A draft "Sacramento River Conservation Area Board Statement was presented at the TAC for review only, pending action and direction from the Board. Discussion was held on removing the outside boundary that delineates the Conservation Area, both the advantages and disadvantages. The Vice Chair informed the Committee he has been working on a project that would have a live link to the CALFED proposal site and that without the outer boundary, a much broader range of projects would have to be included. It was suggested that for current PSPs, the Conservation Area boundary should be used; tracking future PSPs will depend on the action taken by the Board.
- ❖ Project Proposal Review Process The SRCA Manager, Burt Bundy, asked for final comments and suggestions. A request was made to have "Project Review" as a separate item on the TAC and Board agendas. It was recommended that the Project and Proposal Review draft move forward but that the Board should be advised that the form might need to be amended as they move through the actual review process.
- ❖ Manager's Report Les Heringer, M&T, was introduced to update the group on the gravel removal that began on Nov. 3rd. Burt, SRCA Manager, discussed handouts of a draft project review for funded projects and proposed projects within the SRCA.

The Nature Conservancy Seeks Comment on Neighboring Impacts—

About 50 people attended the first in a series of meetings designed to identify impacts to others from TNC managed lands. The effort, funded through a grant from the Great Valley Center, is to understand concerns and develop ways to eliminate or mitigate for impacts from restoration activities. For more information contact Dawit Zeleke, TNC Chico, 897-6373.

Frequently Asked Questions

The 1989 Plan referred to the total area of the "Sacramento River Riparian Conservation Area" as approximately 30,000 acres. Has the area referred to in the 1989 plan been expanded to 213,000 acres?

These numbers are "apples and oranges". The 30,000-acre figure as referenced in the 1989 Plan is still the "approximate" acres of the area between Colusa and Red Bluff where the River is actively meandering. That area, the Inner River Zone (IRZ), is the only area where restoration is being encouraged through a voluntary process; this corresponds to the "about 33,000 acres" referred to in the IRZ Guidelines on pg. 1-6 of the Handbook. The 213,000 acres represents an area of "influence", where activities related to those within the Inner River Zone come under the scrutiny of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Board of Directors. This larger area is not proposed for acquisition or restoration. Last year the SRCA Board clarified the Handbook by defining the IRZG in each of the reaches, and amended language in the rest of the text to eliminate references to restoration in the outer area. They also adopted Handbook language which points out "the need to protect existing land uses including agriculture and structural "hard points" such as buildings, bridges, pumping plants, flood management control structures, and levees from erosion" in all of the Conservation Area. We are in the process of incorporating the new language in the Handbook. The Board also directed the TAC to develop language to redefine the outer area as an area related to the conservation of agricultural land. They are in the process of doing that at this time.